



BLISSFIELD POLICE

DEPARTMENT

2005

ANNUAL REPORT

Blissfield Village Police

Business: 517-486-4340
Emergency: 911
Fax: 517-486-4069
E-Mail: blssfld@cass.net



Chief of Police

Jane M. Kelley
P.O. Box 129
408 E. Adrian St.
Blissfield, Michigan 49228

PERSONNEL

The Blissfield Police Department continues to be led by Chief Jane M Kelley and Sgt James A Novak. There are four full-time officers on staff: Officer Samuel Pooley, Officer Robert Trevino, Officer Jacob Wagner and Officer Matthew Techentien. We now have two part-time officers: Officer Troy Haas has been with us since May 2003 and Officer Karma Thomas who was hired on November 28, 2005. Jennifer Tracy continues to handle the police department's record keeping and reception duties.

ACTIVITIES

During 2005 the Blissfield Officers participated in many activities at the Blissfield Schools. We were involved in presentations for Red Ribbon Week, instructions to the Driver's Ed Students, Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco presentations to the Health Class at the Middle School as well as other activities. The department provided an officer or two for the High School football and basketball games. This presence allows both security and Public Relations.

During the River Raisin Festival the Blissfield Police Department was very involved. In addition to the regular 24 hour patrol coverage, the officers worked approximately 75 hours for the parade and on the festival grounds. We also worked with the Lenawee County Sheriff Office(LCSO) at a booth, which was the Mobile Command Unit for the LCSO. The Blissfield Kiwanis Club donated \$525 so that we could buy Identification Kits for children. The officers fingerprinted the children and distributed the kits, which included a DNA sample collection, to the parents. The Law Enforcement Explorer Post in Adrian assisted the police department with parade duties. They sent three members and two advisors to help with traffic and crowd control. This provides the future law enforcement officers valuable experience and assists our department during a very busy time.

The second annual Blissfield Safety City was held the week of July 25-July 29th. This year there were 40 attending children preparing to enter Kindergarten. We also added a new sponsor. The United Way gave Safety City a \$500 donation. The program is educational and enjoyable for the children. With the assistance of Al Navarro and the Recreation Program, we hope to continue to provide Safety City next year.

Officer Robert Trevino again spearheaded the department's participation in the Office of Highway Safety Planning(OHSP) challenges. They are the "Click it or Ticket" and the "You Drink You Drive, You Lose" campaigns. BPD has now won the \$5,000 prize three times since November 2003. This year we purchased a new Mobile Data Computer for our patrol car and have submitted a proposal to OHSP for spending the most recent award.

The OHSP also sponsors a program for extra enforcement for safety belt use and drunk driving patrols. The BPD officers participated in those campaigns for a total of 72 hours. The over-time wages and benefits are reimbursed by OHSP to the Village of Blissfield.

EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

This year law enforcement organizations across the country learned that the ballistic vests manufactured by Second Chance contained zylon which may not provide the required protection. It was recommended that new vests be purchased if the officer's current vests contained zylon. The officers on the BPD were wearing Second Chance vests containing zylon. The Farver Foundation generously donated \$3,160 to allow us to purchase new body armor for each officer in July 2005. We now are wearing American Body Armor bullet proof vests. The Blissfield Police Department is included in the class action suit against Second Chance and may recover some funds from the settlement.

At the end of 2004 two of the patrol cars were outfitted with new LED emergency lights. The Explorer was completed this year and a new Mobile Data Computer(MDC) was installed in it at the same time. The new MDC was purchased mostly with the Office Of Highway Safety Planning grant of \$5,000 awarded in November 2004.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

On October 25, 2005 the new Policy for Removing, Reporting, and Inventorying Vehicles went into effect. This new policy was prompted by the change in the State Abandoned Vehicle Law. The new policy addresses the different ways the police department may take custody of a vehicle including abandoned vehicles.

With Officer Pooley's help a new LEIN Policy has been drafted and submitted for review. The proposed policies for Use of Weapons & Restraints, Use of Force and Post Reporting Process were turned over to Village Attorney Riley for review in December 2005. They should be ready for implementation in February 2006.

OFFICER TRAINING

The BPD formally joined the Southern Michigan Training Consortium December 22, 2004 and signed up for three years. During this year we have received \$1,348.56 in Public Act 302 Training money from the State of Michigan. Our agreement is to send 50% of that money to the Training Consortium so we sent \$674.28. Chief Kelley is a member of the Curriculum Committee.

Our officers attended several training sessions sponsored by the Southern Michigan Training Consortium. In January and February we attended a Pressure Point Control Tactic update to refresh our skills. In March and April two of our officers were able to attend an Interview & Interrogation class. In December all the officers attended a Weapon Retention and Ground Fighting training. In December, Officer Pooley attended the Forensic Interviewing two day class. There is already a full schedule of classes planned for 2006.

Sgt Novak resigned from his duties as the department Firearms Instructor so Officer Wagner was trained as his replacement in June 2005.

SPECIAL AWARD

Sgt Novak distinguished himself on 12/9/05 when he spotted and stopped a car carrying two escapees from the Gus Harrison Prison. With limited information he used very good police skills and intuition, developed during his 27 years on the department, to take quick action. For his bravery in the face of great danger, he was awarded the Medal of Valor on 1/9/2006.

LEIN AUDIT

The Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) is the information system provided by the State of Michigan to law enforcement. It is a very heavily regulated program and periodically the State will conduct an audit of the information at local departments. The BPD was audited in October 2005 and we were given a passing score. The auditor did make a few suggestions for improvements at our department which we have done. We have also developed the new LEIN Policy & Procedure which should be ready for implementation in February 2006.

2005 STATISTICS

The Village of Blissfield has police coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is always one officer on duty, and most weekdays two officers during the day and an overlap shift from 6:00pm to 2am as scheduling allows. Due to our high volume of traffic on US 223 there is ongoing traffic enforcement. The total number of hours worked by the BPD officers is 12,033.75. You will see from the following statistics that even though the officers worked the same number of hours as last year, our work load has increased.

Attached is the "Blissfield Police 2005 Department Statistics". These figures are taken off the Officers Daily Reports. The number of traffic stops in 2004 was 2039 and the number in 2005 is 2038. Interestingly we have written the exact same number of traffic citations for both years. Our parking tickets have doubled this year. The number of Adult arrests has risen from 291 in 2004 to 310 in 2005. This increase in arrests is reflected in the increase in drunk driving arrests. Unfortunately the number of Juveniles arrested also increased from 21 in 2004 to 39 in 2005.

The "Uniform Crime Report" that you find attached is taken from our report writing program and reflects the numbers submitted to the State of Michigan. Only if a report is written, the number will be counted. Therefore the numbers will not always match the numbers taken from the Officer's Daily Report. Our Non-Aggravated Assaults remain the same number but we have seen an increase in Felonious Assaults, from 3 in 2004 to 9 in 2005. The number of Larcenies has not changed from year to year. We saw another small decline in the number of Malicious Destruction of Property complaints from 32 to 30 in 2005. The number of Controlled Substance Violations did not change much but we saw an increase in Liquor Violations from 17 in 2004 to 37 in 2005. The number of Operating While Intoxicated arrests continues to rise as well as other Driving Law Violations, usually Driving While License Suspended, arrests. We also saw a slight increase in the number of Traffic Crashes both on the public street and on private property. The total number of reported incidents using the state File Class system increased from 701 in 2004 to 822 in 2005.

The number of calls for service directed from the Lenawee County Central Dispatch to the Blissfield officers was 1141 in 2004. In 2005, our dispatched calls for service was 1242, an increase of 101 calls. This number does not reflect those calls for service that originate in the Village Office, so our actual number of calls is higher. There is not a count of the calls directly to the Village Office.